

Sunday, Dec. 28, 1913

P'yung Yang, Korea.

Dear Boys: The faithfulness with which your dear letters come to me, on almost every steamer, is one of the strengthening factors in my work, out here. Heartbreaks and loneliness make it almost impossible to move than exist, sometimes, but these bright strong, thoughtful letters often dispel those shadows as nothing else can. God is very near and precious and real in every phase of my life, but he has put into us this need of the human love and care which we owe, due to the other. One of the sweetest compensations of my life has been the almost perfect loyalty of my boys, to me. I have been far from ideal in my judgments and acts and conduct as a mother to you two boys, but always I have yearned above every other desire, to be what an ideal mother should be to you. I never wish to live life over but I often wish I had lived it with fewer mistakes. But one of the sweetest things about love is that it forgets the mistakes and imperfections. In dealing with these children here, I try to remember the things in which I would done differently with my own. They seem to think, at least that girls do, that I care more for the boys and I think I do for as often

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The Christmas packages came and came and from some letters ~~they are nice~~ to come. People say here that Christ-mas lasts a month or more. Several folks have not received their home packages yet. But it is such a pleasure to have them on time as yours was. I had about twelve packages hidden for two or three weeks - and Christmas

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to have them on time as yours was. I  
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for two or three weeks - and Christmas  
morning, I opened them! I knew as  
soon as I saw your package that  
it was your picture and needed it -  
required self restraint not to snatch  
it open at once, but I didn't.  
However, I opened it first and then I  
knew just how hungry I am to see  
you! But the good hard cry did  
me good for I had to have it, anyhow.  
My, how proud I am of that fine  
face, so kind and high toned and  
manly. I put you and George on my  
little dining room table, side by side,  
that I might look at you all day, all  
that I have of my very own in all  
the world. In my bed room, on my  
dresser I have two pictures of our  
dear one and close beside him I  
have you and George and Marguerite  
and Lenore, to look and talk to  
every day. My servants are greatly inter-  
ested in my boys - for boys are prized  
beyond all other things in Korea. But  
it is past all their ability to comprehend  
why I should not wish to have my  
sons take care of me and have daughters  
in law to work for me for that is the  
very crowning desire of an Oriental  
mother's heart and it is impossible  
for them to understand anything else.

Sometimes they seize my hand in  
both of theirs and thank me and  
thank me for coming so far to  
help others. That is the attitude of the  
whole people toward the missionaries.  
My, I will be happy if I ever get so  
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Well, I must go on about our Christmas-  
though I can never write it all in one,  
or even many letters. The children had  
filled two stockings full of all sorts of  
little gifts they had made and bought.

Virginia Wells came over and unlocked  
a drawer in which they had the stockings  
hidden and we opened them together  
and laughed over them. There was a  
pretty bag or two and some nicely  
made dust rags and some calendars  
and one bag had a piece of nice  
red ribbon, and one gave an eraser-  
and there was a great big cake of  
sweet chocolate and a glass jar of  
candies from all of them. By mail, next  
day, I had a bib, sure enough, made  
by my boy Bruce! I'll be ready for  
the babies that sometimes visit us.  
Then there was that exquisite collar  
from sweet Lenore and a beautiful  
centerpiece from her mother and  
another from Lucy. Oh, I'm delighted  
to get these things, you know how I  
love things like that. Then there was  
an embroidered corset cover from Grace  
and one from Aunt Loll and a laundry  
bag and handkerchief, also - and a sewing  
outfit and handkerchief from Miss Chidz,  
and cards from a lot of dear folks,  
and such a beautiful piece from Emma  
that I am using now and that lovely  
pin from Julia, and a beautiful neck  
piece from Annie Ray, also a set of  
Embroidered napkins from Mrs. C. Williams, for  
which I am thankful - besides some  
beautiful calendars. People here sent

and one from Aunt doll and a laundry bag and handkerchief, also - and a sewing bust fil and handkerchief from Miss Childs, and cards from a lot of dear folks, and such a beautiful piece from Emma that I am using now and that lovely pin from Julia, and a beautiful neck piece from Annie Ray, also a set of Embroidery napkins from Mrs. C. Williams, for which I am thankful - besides some beautiful Calendars. People here sent plants and cards, - one some fancy pins, another a filing book, a basket of candy, etc - etc. Everyone in this station, and other places, sent Christmas greetings. Every child in the school sent something. I have a list of 35 gifts and 27 cards! I had so many engagements to dinners and parties I could hardly keep track of them. There was a big "children's party" to which all children and parents in the community (Foreign) were invited. It was a lovely affair at the Holdcroft's. They are newly married, about four years ago, and just the loveliest, dearest people. They are special friends of mine. Mr. H - is the one who looks and acts so much like George. I spent some of Christmas day with the Mowry's, they are so sweet to me. They gave me a beautiful picture. Mrs. Radcliffe sent me an exquisite photograph of herself and one of Dr. R - Several of the missionaries here know them and think my picture is beautiful. I had such a dear letter from her and from Mrs. Noble, also - & get letters all the time about my letters home. I am more than glad if my letters help along any. I can never tell things as they are or as they appear to me in this odd land.

I had a very unusual letter from a gentleman in Philadelphia, who is in business there, but greatly interested in missions all over the world. He had heard the Presbyterial letter & wrote to the Soc. in Washington and said it had given him so much pleasure he left

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never tell things as they are. so as  
they appeal to me in this sad land.

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in business there, but greatly interested  
in missions all over the world. He had  
heard the Presbyterial letter & wrote  
to the Soc. in Washington and said it had  
given him so much pleasure he felt  
he should tell me so. It was a very  
kind letter. We get many letters here  
from everywhere. One of the mission-  
aries from Philadelphia, here in K.P.,  
told me she read in their home paper  
what a "delightful letter" had been read  
from "Mrs. Luskett, of Korea". If I can  
write now when I cannot talk to these  
people here, perhaps it will help to  
cause some - but sometimes I feel  
I could just shout to the whole world  
to open their eyes to this great, this  
pitiful, this crying need, need - this  
darkness and heathenism that our  
Christ left us to help and heal. In the  
magazines I read so much of the newer  
methods of financing and of doing  
business to "build up fortunes" and  
I'm asking all the time, "What for? Oh,  
what for?" Why, the only thing that would  
crumble just almost in the hands, is  
the thing we have given - not what  
we save for ourselves. Why don't we  
see that? Did I write you how I fixed  
the candy the Vienna folks sent to the  
boys and girls and the watches, also and my  
little gifts to the children in little  
long handled baskets tied up with ribbons  
for them to take home? They were lovely  
packages. I am going to write to the  
Vienna folks right away. I had  
the pleasure of doing a little Christmas  
giving here. Dr. Wells told me of some  
poor, Koreans in the hospital so I  
sent a lot of Fauld pictures and a big  
orange-lace to them. Then there are  
Linen curtains and

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long handled baskets tied up with ribbons  
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the pleasure of doing a little Christmas  
giving here. Dr. Wells told me of some  
poor Koreans in the hospital so I  
sent a lot of Guild pictures and a big  
orange each to them. Then there are  
two or three ladies here, guests and  
strangers, to whom I sent pretty  
bowls in which were planted the lily  
bulbs you see in Chinese stores. We  
get them here. I have several around  
in the rooms. They will bloom before  
long. Then Mr. Mowry has ten school  
boys from far-off Korean villages, they  
are very poor, hardly have enough to  
eat, he has been keeping them in school  
here and wanted to give them a treat.

The "treat" was a good bag of rice and  
an orange each. He let me help pay  
for that treat. And dear, he was keep-  
ing these boys in school with the money  
a S.S. in America sent to him and  
now they have failed to send it and  
he feels he is almost unable to do it  
so I told him I would give him half  
that money you are sending each month,  
which amounts to Y2 (Yen) He was  
delighted and I know it could not  
go for a better purpose than toward  
the education of these promising boys.

I told Miss Fish about it and she  
wants to help, too, so between us we  
can relieve Mr. Mowry and keep the  
boys in school. The other Y2.3 your  
money I am giving, each month, to  
Mrs. Bernheisel for the little Korean  
kindergarten. Oh, how would just  
love those little chubby baby Korean  
children - they are so sweet and they  
and so bright. I have Pearl's letter

can relieve Mr. Mowry and keep the  
boys in school. The other  $\frac{1}{2}$  of your  
money I am giving each month to  
Mrs. Bernheisel for the little Korean  
kindergarten. Oh, you would just  
love those little chubby baby Korean  
children - they are so sweet and shiny  
and so bright. I have Pearl's letter  
and your check from her. I will  
tell her the use to which I put the  
money. It was sweet in her. I have  
put her on my list and wrote her at  
once. Please send money by Post  
Office order, hereafter. It is easier to  
get it, ~~in~~ that way. Well, yesterday  
afternoon to station, that is, all the  
Presbyterian missionaries in Puyeng Yang-  
had a business meeting here. They met  
at 4 o'clock and at six I gave them  
a dinner. I had six tables, mostly  
round ones, some of my own, some  
belonging to others - for every one  
here expects everyone else to use  
his things - then there are dishes and  
silver for "Community" use. I put  
my nice embroideries on the tables  
and in the center of each laid some death-  
ful fern leaves I got here. The  
room was decorated with ferns and  
pine and the laurel leaves we can buy  
in bunches here at the little Korean  
stores where they sell hardware and  
walnuts. The house was very pretty  
and attractive with lamps and nice  
and warm. We own about twelve  
rocking chairs and a corner seat and  
a couch and some big chairs so our  
company was comfortably seated. There  
were twenty five in all. Virginia Wells,  
our only young lady and Richard  
Baird, our sweet sixteen-year-old  
boy and my servant ~~my~~ sis and I  
did the serving. All the servants were

walking chairs and a corner seat and a coach and some big chairs so our company was comfortably seated. There were twenty five in all. Virginia Wells, our only young lady and Richard Baird, our sweet sixteen-year-old boy and my servant Yisi and I did the serving. All the servants were doing their best to make it nice.

First we passed forks and knives and napkins, then dinner plates were brought in on each of which were two patties filled with creamed chicken,

2 nice croquettes and a generous helping of Saratoga chips. Then came the bread and butter plates with a roll of butter and some lovely celery and two

hot biscuits, on each. Following that

came olives and grape conserve (you know how good it is) — after they had

eaten that and plates cleared. We brought on salad made of apples, pine apple (canned), raisins, figs, dates, oranges and English Walnuts with a lemon dressing and on the top a little pile of whipped cream.

We can "whip" some of our canned cream with the salad. We had crackers on which I had toasted cheese. My, it

was good! Then after salad we had a fruit gelatine of all sorts of good stuff, and just delicious vanilla ice cream that I made myself (or at least mixed it)

— the man froze it, it was made of pure canned cream and was fine <sup>and deviled too!</sup> I do

say it, as oughtn't. Then there were dishes of salted peanuts and my

lovely American candy, for each table.

With which they drank grape juice with oranges and lemons in it — and coffee and tea and coco! Now

wasn't that a feast! Oh, wouldn't I have had you all

have been happy to have had you all here to enjoy it! The folks just couldn't

the men especially. Dr.

say it, as ought up. Then there were dishes of salted pea nuts and my lovely American candy, for each table - with which they drank grape juice with oranges and lemons in it - and coffee and tea and coco! Now wasn't that a feast! Oh, wouldn't I have been happy to have had you all there to enjoy it. The folks just couldn't get over it - the men especially. Dr. Wells said he never ate so much good stuff in his life. They voted all sorts of things about me - I wanted to show them what a really good American dinner could be like. They said "you must have done most of this no Korean cook could do these things". Of course I did do a lot of it as my tired back proved - but it was worth it. I was delighted to think I could get such lots of good things together and I wanted to entertain these people who have every one of them entertained me, over and over. They were all so amazed that I could get on so well without the language with my servants - but necessarily with my servants in that time. I will do a lot for you in that time. I am sending in this a picture of our home that an American visitor took. It is all we have. I want everyone to see it. It gives you a good idea of the missionary homes here. This house and many of them are built of mud and stones and corn stalks, just like other Korean houses. Only the very well-to-do Koreans ever have the tiled roof, like this. The roofs are always the rice straw as a thatch and no windows or only a bit of a square covered with paper. Sometimes I see a little piece of glass, half the size of your hand, stuck into the paper to make a peep hole.

very well-to-do Koreans ever have the tiled roof, like this. The roofs are always the rice straw as a thatch and no windows or only a bit of a square covered with paper. Sometimes I see a little piece of glass, half the size of your hand, stuck into the paper to make a peep hole.

In front of my room (which faces south) is the lawn where the boys and girls play ball. There are lots of roses and plants everywhere about. This was the first missionary home built in Poyeng Yang, fifteen years ago. Now they build the homes for the missionaries, of brick with the tiled roof. The rooms marked "guest rooms" (which most missionary houses have) have been torn away and right there is where the new school dormitory is now in process of building. There is so much of this building process that I want to describe to you - it is very interesting. When Blancher comes to live in Poyeng Yang they will live in this house - won't that be grand! Did I write you that my Christmas list reached almost sixty, this year? I hope you did not have to pay much duty on things. I had to pay quite a good deal of some things - not on yours or Lenore's though. Please let me know about this and never put your valuation too high. I was sure Lenore's package had been opened for the paper was folded up and not around the packages as I am sure she had fixed it. It came in good shape, however I have never gotten the envelope. She sent last summer but thank I will, yet. If you are not married until Spring I want to send her wedding

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dress, if she would like it, an em-  
broidered gauze from Japan. They  
are exquisite - let me send it.

I hope my Christmas things were  
not too late. Be sure to do as I  
wrote about my sweet Penje's  
birth day. I just have to stop some-  
where. I will put some other things  
in Lucy's and Penje's and Emma's  
letters. Oh, I wanted to tell you about  
the Korean Christmas entertainments.  
I'll write it to sweet Lenore.

May my Father bless you richly -  
my perfect, true boy. You do go to  
church, don't you - and are you  
reading "Thes. 1 chap. tonight Dec. 25  
with me? I hope so for I love  
them we read these words together  
all the children of C.E. age, in to  
station, will come here to supper this  
evening and stay for our little C.E.  
services. I love to have them and  
they love to come. My children are

all happy with their Christmas in  
their homes. They write me almost  
every day such dear letters.

God bless you richly - Mother  
some folks might read this.

J. D. Luckett,  
Pyung Yang,  
Korea.

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Mr. James D. Luckett,  
Fairfax, Va.  
U.S.A.

Dec. 28, 1913

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